

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2722

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1970

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO CHILE

1. IN ITS ENDEAVOR TO SQUEEZE EVERY POSSIBLE SENSATIONALIST ELEMENT OUT OF THE SECRETARY'S IMPENDING LATIN AMERICAN TRIP, THE CHILEAN PRESS IS PICKING UP A GRIST OF DAILY RUMORS AND REPORTS ABOUT WHERE THE SECRETARY WILL GO, AND WHEN, FOR THE EDIFICATION OF ITS READERS. NET RESULT IS TO LEAVE AN AURA OF DOUBT ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR INCLUSION OF CHILE.

2. IN THIS REGARD FONMIN DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL (POLITICAL) AFFAIRS JORGE BERGUNO TOLD POLCONS APRIL 1 THAT CHILEAN AMBASSADOR TO OAS HAD REPORTED IT LIKELY SECRETARY WOULD DROP CHILE AND PERU FROM HIS ITINERARY. OFFICIAL SAID THIS WOULD BE SERIOUS MATTER FOR CHILE, AND FOR US RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA AS A WHOLE. IT WOULD MEAN DISREGARDING WEST COAST OF SOUTHERN CONE, WHICH WOULD STRENGTHEN POSITION OF STATES OF "CENTRAL" AREA (VENEZUELA, MEXICO) THAT ARE MUCH MORE CRITICAL OF US POLICY.

3. EMBOFF SAID HE HAD NOTICED NEWS STORY TO THIS EFFECT IN SANTIAGO PRESS, AND THAT SPECULATION IS INEVITABLE, BUT THAT EMBASSY HAD NOTHING OFFICIAL.
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4. IN A WASHINGTON UPI STORY EL MERCURIO APRIL 1 REPORTS AS HARD NEWS POSTPONEMENT OF SECRETARY'S TRIP TO LATTER PART OF APRIL. REPORT ADDS THAT BOTH DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL SOURCES DENIED RUMORS THAT CHILE AND PERU WOULD BE ELIMINATED FROM ITINERARY. STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCES DESCRIBED AS DECLARING SECRETARY STILL PLANS TO VISIT ORIGINAL FIVE SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES. FONMIN CARVAJAL TOLD PRESS HERE SECRETARY WOULD VISIT CHILE.

5. APRIL 2 SANTIAGO PRESS FEATURES COMMENT OF AMBASSADOR POPPER, WHO RAN GAMUT OF IMPORTUNATE LOCAL REPORTERS AFTER SIGNING CEREMONY FOR AMENDED PL-480 TITLE 2 AGREEMENT. ASKED REGARDING FOREIGN REPORTS THAT SECRETARY HAD CANCELLED HIS TRIP TO CHILE, AMBASSADOR SAID THIS WAS INCORRECT. ADDED SECRETARY HAD STATED HIS INTENTION OF VISITING ALL FIVE COUNTRIES. TO QUESTION WHETHER SECRETARY WOULD BE VISITING CHILE AS AN "INSPECTOR," AMBASSADOR REPLIED IN NEGATIVE, STATING THAT AS WAS WELL KNOWN SECRETARY'S TRIP WAS NOT BEING MADE FOR SUCH A PURPOSE.

POPPER

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